

# Smoke-free Bars Are Focus of Bill

**Restaurants:** From page 1  
Legislation first introduced in January 2007 to ban smoking in all Michigan workplaces has recently taken a large step toward becoming law. The Michigan Senate passed a bill Thursday, May 8, that would ban smoking in all workplaces throughout the state, including restaurants and bars. The bill, which spent several months in a Senate committee after being passed by the House in late 2007, passed by a vote of 25 to 12.

The Senate voted to amend the original House bill to eliminate exemptions for casinos, bingo halls, and smoking bars. The only exceptions to the legislation now, as passed by the Senate, are Native American-owned establishments, including casinos, bars, and restaurants.

State Senator Jason Allen of Traverse City voted against the bill.

While the senator understands the health concerns related to secondhand smoke and supports establishments who have chosen to voluntarily go smoke-free, he has steadfastly opposed state mandates on the private sector, said Norm Saari, chief of staff for Senator Allen.

"As a policy, the senator and his family prefer to go to restaurants and establishments where there is no smoking," said Mr. Saari, noting that neither the senator nor his wife smoke. "However, his philosophical view is that he does not believe that the state should tell the private sector what they should and should not do."

State Representative Gary McDowell voted for the version of the bill that was passed earlier in the House. The Senate-revised bill has now been returned to the House for consideration.

Currently, 33 other states have passed smoke-free legislation, and more than half of all Americans live in states or communities with smoke-free workplace protection laws. These laws typically stem from health concerns and complications linked to secondhand smoke. According to the American Lung Association, secondhand smoke is responsible for 3,400 lung cancer deaths and 46,000 heart disease deaths in adult nonsmokers in the United States each year.

There is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke, the current Surgeon General's Report says. Even short exposures to secondhand smoke can damage the lining of blood vessels and reduce

heart rate variability, potentially increasing the risk of heart attack. Secondhand smoke, which contains hundreds of toxic chemicals and carcinogens, is a known cause of cancer and upper respiratory infections and also aggravates symptoms of asthma.

While dining area customers love the change at Goodfellow's Restaurant, Mr. Lynch said, he opposes legislation that would ban smoking from all businesses.

"I still like the smoky bar," he said. "I don't smoke, but being in the bar business, it doesn't bother me."

Mr. Lynch is also concerned that a smoking ban would negatively impact his business.

"A bunch of my buddies completely went out of business when that went into effect in California and Florida," he said.

Some local restaurants have chosen to limit smoking in other ways.

The Seabiscuit Cafe on Mackinac Island has voluntarily gone smoke-free until 4 p.m. each day, a decision made two years ago by owners Debra and Sandra Orr. Manager John Nash said that many people, even smokers, don't mind the lunchtime ban.

"People don't want to smell it while they're eating," he said.

While some smokers were upset by the change, Mr. Nash said, others just go outside to have a cigarette and come back in after they'd finished. Mr. Nash also said, however, that he would lose much of his business if the cafe was required to go smoke-free after 4.

While establishments may be concerned about a loss of business, bars and restaurants elsewhere have reported success with smoke-free policies, said Melanie MacDowell, a certified prevention specialist for the LMAS Health Department.

"Most of them are worried about a decline in revenue, but everyone else is doing the same thing," Ms. MacDowell said. "Places are finding that they're having more family business coming in because they're advertising that they're smoke-free." In addition to customers, restaurant and bar employees may appreciate such policies to protect their health, she suggested.

"A lot of people, especially with Michigan's low economy, don't have a choice of where they can work," said Ms. MacDowell. "Bars and restaurants are easy places to work, and a lot of those people don't have a choice whether to work in a smoking or nonsmoking environment."

# Man Charged With Child Endangerment

Jay Nyhart of St. Ignace was arrested outside LaSalle High School Friday, May 16, and was charged with being intoxicated while waiting to pick up a child at 3 p.m.

Mr. Nyhart resisted arrest and had an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle, according to Mackinac County Prosecutor Fred Feleppa. Mr. Nyhart was arraigned in 92nd District Court Monday, May 19.

Mr. Nyhart is charged with on count of resisting and obstructing a police officer, a charge punishable by up to two years in jail.

He is also charged with one count of child endangerment that involves operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated with an occupant younger than 16 years old in the vehicle.

The charge carries a penalty of up to one year in jail.

Mr. Nyhart is also charged with one count of possessing an open

alcohol container in a motor vehicle, a crime punishable by up to 90 days in jail.

A pretrial hearing has been set for May 27. A preliminary examination has been set for May 28. Both are at 92nd District Court.

# Energy Audit Considered To Save Costs at Moran Twp. Hall

By Paul Gingras

Moran Township will hire a consultant to determine the best heating source for the town hall. Responding to projected cost increases for electricity, the board had approved \$15,000 for a new LP gas furnace system in its budget this spring, but is reconsidering the move at the urging of the electric company.

In a letter to the board, Donald Sawruk, president of Edison Sault Electric Company, encouraged reconsidering the plan to eliminate its all-electric heating system.

"Propane is about 23% more expensive than electric," Mr. Sawruk wrote. "Although we are expecting electric costs to increase over the next two years more than they have increased over the last two years, we believe that electricity costs will still be very competitive."

"We are considering some type of energy audit," Mr. Durm told *The St. Ignace News*.

The board is considering adding insulation, fixing leaky windows, replacing fluorescent bulbs with more efficient lighting, and even adding solar panels. There are grants available for municipalities that pursue alternative energy sources, Mr. Durm said.

Other matters before the township board at its Wednesday, May 7, meeting included a discussion of Griffin Beverage's plans to build an environmentally-friendly facility on its parcel on Old Portage Trail. The company has presented a site plan and met with the planning commission to discuss the layout of the property and its need to obtain a special-use permit Wednesday, May 14.

Griffin Beverage is considering several sites. The planning commission will hold a public hearing on the matter at Moran Township Hall Wednesday, June 11.

The commission likes Griffin's plan to build in Moran Township, said Lonnie Heuer, a trustee on the township board and a member of the commission.

"Everything looks promising. At this point in time, I do not see any reason not to approve it," Mr. Heuer told *The St. Ignace News*.

The planning commission is likely to make its recommendation to the township board following the public hearing, he said.

Building the facility will cost

more than building a standard facility, said Robert Griffin, Jr. To reduce costs, the company is seeking a 12-year, 50% tax abatement on its new buildings.

The company plans to use a geothermal cooling system for its beer, lighting systems that save energy, and a construction method that requires little excavation. The facility will not need a retention pond. The plan calls for a buffer of material between the building that will filter water back into the ground.

"We are working with the natural contours of the land," Mr. Griffin said.

Negotiable tax incentives for industrial developments such as Griffin's will be dealt with by the township board at a later date, Mr. Drum said.

The board has approved a request by its assessor to hire a consultant for up to \$1,800 to update her on assessing details and entering assessing data on a new computer system.

A renewal of 0.25 mills for recreation will be on the election ballot for the Tuesday, August 5, primary. The millage enables township residents to continue using city and township facilities, and includes an addendum that delegates maintenance of the disc-golf course to Jake Tamlyn, manager of Doc Holle's Silver Mountain Ski Hill. Patrons of the disc golf course pay by donation, noted Township Trustee Mark Spencer.

The City of St. Ignace, the township, and St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church will each contribute \$200 for decorative cemetery ropes to be used during burials at Gros Cap and Western cemeteries. The board also paid \$860 for flags and medallions for veterans' graves at the cemeteries.

The board will seek bids for the replacement of the worn wooden cross atop the township-owned Gros Cap Church.

The board accepted a \$2,290 bid by Brian Olsen to handle lawn mowing at the township hall, Gros Cap Church, and Gros Cap Cemetery for the season. Kyle Moss was hired for \$75 a week to mow Western Cemetery and the Brevort Village Community Center, which remains for sale.

Moran Township's annual spring clean up will be Saturday, May 31,

from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Area residents can dispose of bulk trash at Moran Township Hall on US-2, or at the Brevort Village Community Center.

A representative from the Hope Chest resale store in St. Ignace will be at the spring clean-up to accept donations. Several items worthy of selling at the charity have been thrown away in recent years, said township clerk Kris Vallier.

Anyone caught dumping before

the specified time will be prosecuted. In recent years, dumpsters were found 25% full before they were scheduled to open, and trash was dumped in the parking lots after the dumpsters were removed, Mrs. Vallier said.

The township's June 4 meeting, originally scheduled for Ozark Standard School on M-123, will instead be at the township hall on US-2.

# Local Lifekeeper Quilt Project Planned

Eastern U.P. families, local quilters, and the Sense of Life work group of the Mackinac County Human Services Collaborative Body (HSCB) are combining efforts to create a Lifekeeper Memory Quilt to be displayed to raise awareness and to prevent suicide by putting faces with the statistics of suicide in this area.

Organizers of the project believe that if communities knew the frequency and saw the losses in terms of faces to go with the numbers, people would want to learn how to prevent suicides, and with those skills, they would greatly reduce these usually preventable deaths.

Mackinac County's suicide rate exceeds the state and national average. There were three suicides in 2006, or a rate of 27.2 (per 100,000), compared to Michigan's rate of 11.2 or the national rate of 10.8. The Mackinac County rate for the period 2004 through 2006 was 24.4, compared to the state and national rates, which were both 10.8 for that three-year period, Sense of Life reports.

Every suicide affects many people. There are signs that a person is considering suicide, and there are actions that those who see the signs can take to help the suicidal person find other means to decrease their personal pain. The collaborative body has identified awareness and education as the primary means to change this community problem.

A national Lifekeeper Memory Quilt was made in December 1997, and 48 states now have their own

quilts. The Upper Peninsula of Michigan has a Lifekeeper Memory Quilt that includes photos of two persons from St. Ignace. It travels around the U.P. and was on display at the St. Ignace Library in 2007.

Twelve photos are needed for a local quilt. Families that may want to have a photo of their loved one included on the quilt are asked to contact Melanie MacDowell at the Luce-Mackinac-Alger-Schoolcraft (LMAS) Health Department by calling (906) 643-1100, extension 109.

The quilts help provide a means of healing for the survivors of suicide, as family members and friends have this opportunity to honor the memories of their loved ones.

Where the quilts are on display, free materials such as information on where to go for help are made readily available nearby.

The toll free crisis line for Mackinac, Chippewa, and Schoolcraft counties is (800) 839-9443.

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**A:** When a coronary artery becomes partially or completely blocked, the part of the heart muscle supplied by the blood vessel does not get its required blood supply. The first symptom, generally, is chest pain or chest discomfort, which may be described as a pressure or heaviness beneath the breastbone with associated neck, jaw, or arm discomfort. The pattern varies from patient to patient and may have associated symptoms of sweating, shortness of breath, or nausea. To avoid a heart attack, regularly monitor your blood pressure and cholesterol to continually monitor your risk of heart attack. Also, annual physicals with your primary care physician will help identify any potential problems you may be experiencing.

For more information on your risk for heart disease, contact your primary care physician, or Soo Cardiology in Sault Ste. Marie at (906) 253-2760.

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